

The Onyx Informer

Founded in 1972

Northeastern's Newspaper Designed for People of Color

May 1997

ON THE MOVE

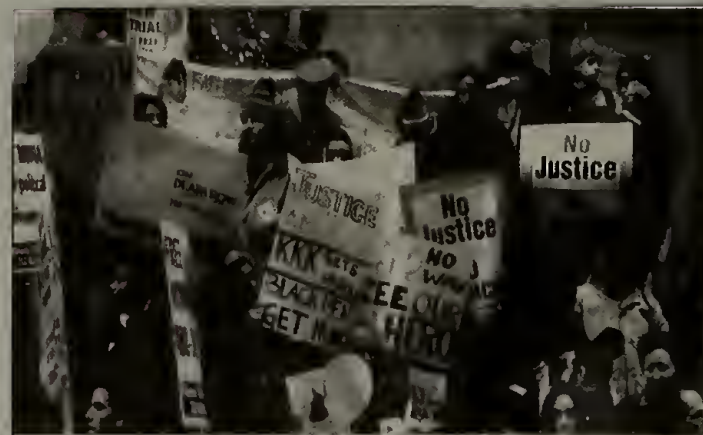
REMEMBERING MAY 13, 1985

DEEJAY MILLS

Exactly 12 years ago, the Philadelphia Police Department tried and succeeded in their second attempt to destroy positive black people. On this very day in 1985, the police dropped a bomb on MOVE Headquarters on Osage Ave in West Philly. They then let the building burn, shooting at innocent black men, women, and children as they attempted to exit, until it consumed 60 some homes and was out of control.

Our story begins in the early 70's. An organization grew out of injustice and oppression.

"Move's work is to stop industry from poisoning the air, the water, the soil, and to put an end to the enslavement of life—people, animals, any form of life. The purpose of John Africa's revolution is to show people how corrupt, rotten, criminally enslaving this system is, show people through John Africa's teaching, the truth, that this system is the cause of all their problems (alcoholism, drug addiction, unemployment, wife abuse, child



pornography, every problem in the world) and to set the example of revolution for people to follow when they realize how they've been oppressed, repressed, duped, tricked by this system, this government and see the need to rid themselves of this cancerous system as move does."

The organization was named MOVE. It means what it says: MOVE, work generate, be active. Everything living thing moves. If not, it would be stagnant, dead.

MOVE valued health and per-

sonal discipline. They were a positive group of people set about helping their community. They fixed elderly persons houses, found places to live for the homeless, helped incarcerated individuals meet parole requirements through rehabilitation programs, and intervened in violence between local gangs and college fraternities. Through MOVE, many people became human again by overcoming problems of drug addiction, physical disabilities, infertility, and alcoholism.

As most positive orga-

nizations of colored people formed out of oppression, MOVE began to attend public appearances and challenge the speakers. They then became noticed through their use of non-violent protests.

Of course these non-violent demonstrations were met with the brute force of the Philadelphia Police Department, under the control of Police Commissioner Frank Rizzo. Rizzo, who is known for his racist attitudes and brutal abuse of power, once let loose a gang of uniformed pigs armed

with billy clubs into a crowd of peaceful, protesting African-American high school students. These students were beat because they wished to have an African-American History class taught at school. During the 70's the Philly P.D. was responsible for the murder of one 3 week young infant, four miscarriages, and much physical suffering as a direct cause of their barbaric beatings and attacks on MOVE.

With all of this unnecessary violence directed toward MOVE, they began to retaliate. They held a demonstration May 20th, 1977 in which they "told the cops there wasn't going to be anymore undercover deaths. This time they better be prepared to murder us in full public view..." This is exactly what the city of Philly attempted to do.

Judge Lynne Abraham (now District Attorney) issued arrest warrants for 11 MOVE members on phony charges. The police set up a 24-hour watch around MOVE's headquarters to arrest them as they came out.

See MOVE pg. 8

try going to realize that it's through programs that will help the underclass excel, that our country will fully progress together? How can a country truly progress when there still remains a huge gap between those who have and those who have not? How can one not get angry when those who remain poor are your own people?

Why don't they want us to help ourselves? Is it too accepted of a trend that those who make our "cheeky sandwiches" and clean our dormitory bathrooms are minorities? Is that all they expect from us? I often find it hard at times, being a minority college student. Most of the people who attend college are white. Most of my professors are white. Those that work in the cafeteria and clean the residence halls are either African American or Latino. My friends don't seem to think twice about it. However, I get angry. I constantly wonder why there is still a large number of us at the bottom of the work chain.

Why aren't more of us in college? The only answer I keep coming up with is because most of our parents can't afford it or we have other obligations

see Racism on pg.

WAKE UP NU!

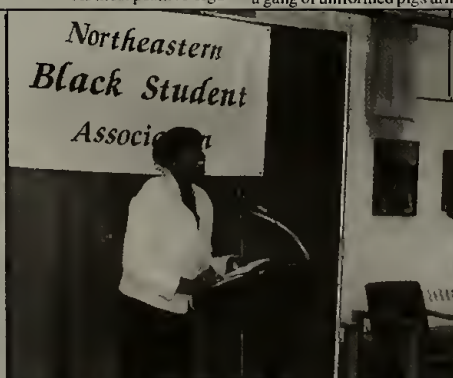
By Nicole Black

The revolution will not be televised so we will return you to your regularly scheduled programming. Tonight's program topic Black Activism at NU—fact or fiction.

The definition of Black activism does not necessarily mean sit ins, picket signs or shouting Black power with raised fists. It is visible Black consciousness, in laymen's terms, as a black person you know what is happening! The idea of Black activism at NU is not a new one. Without Black activism at NU the AAI, NBSA, MSAB, ONYX, or the African American Studies Department would not be here today. So what has happened to Black Activism at NU? Have we become students of color who are apathetic, lethargic and basically do not give a shit? Is it that we have become too comfortable with the way things are we believe that the struggle is over? It is a struggle that has taken on a new form not as visible as the one fought during the Civil Rights era. The form is Proposition 209, the cutting of funding to the AAI and the African American Studies department, and a high retention rate for students of color to name a few.

As students of color we are not unifying together to be aware of the things that go on at this university that directly affect us. Must it take extreme measures to force us to ban together? Unity is at the center of Black activism and we must be unified before we face the issues. I wish I had the answer to why as students we choose not to take a visible conscious role in issues affecting us. We do not support one another or take part in activities or speakers that come on campus that we could benefit from. When is the last time you went to the African American Studies Dept. speaker forum? Or when is the last time you attended a NBSA meeting?

So what does the future hold for student's of color at NU? The crystal ball shows that things will either remain the same or people may just WAKE UP. The choice is yours but remember you can not watch the revolution on television, you have to be about it.



Marisa Coleman at NBSA's Celebration of Roots and Culture

Residential Racism

Celina R. DeLeon

"If there was a white college fund it would be racist, right?" I hear it in my room. I hear it in the halls. The ridicule and scorn of minority advancement.

This indifference to the minority situation in America may lie in the misconceived notion that there is currently equal opportunity for all. The majority of white America fails to realize that equality is not achieved by those who can not afford its price—education. If the children of the minority underclass can not get the education they need to rise, we will never be able to free ourselves from this third world cycle.

How did a society, seemingly influenced by the Civil Rights Movement of the 60s, determine that things are suddenly equal now? Equal opportunity and education for all. Just because Oprah Winfrey is the richest woman in the country, does not mean racism no longer exists. All schooling is supposedly equal, even in the poor urban and rural areas of this nation? When is this coun-

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I'm sorry (ahem) I just had to get that out of my system. But on a serious note, I am very thankful that the for the new editions to *The Onyx* staff (Celina, Cherell, Kafui, Candice and Heather) as well as some of the contributing writers (Kerrita, Iyeoka, Robin and Silvana). Believe me, your efforts have been a boon to the continuation of this publication.

At this time I would also like to give a special thank you to my co-editor, Dee-Jay Mills, who had done an excellent job of running the paper in my absence (due to co-op). Dee-Jay, the paper was basically in your hands and you did a tremendous job of holding on to it tightly and making sure it didn't slip away. Ya get mad props, kid! I just want to take this time out to make sure everybody reading this knows about your efforts and gives you all the credit you deserve!

However, just because this is the last issue we will publish this year does not mean it will be the last time it publishes ever. Oh, no! Please do not think its all over! What you are now holding in your hands is nothing more than a foundation on which to build a better *Onyx Informer*. WE STILL NEED YOUR HELP in making sure we build *The Onyx* into something not only the students of color can be proud of; WE NEED YOUR HELP INTO MAKING *THE ONYX* INTO SOMETHING NORTHEASTERN can be proud of.

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--Conway A. Downing

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The Onyx Informer
430 Curry Student Center
350 Huntington Ave



Students celebrate the Groundbreaking of the Latino Student Cultural Center

A DREAM FULLFILLED

Maximillian-Shell Crawford

The ground breaking ceremony which was held April 29 1997 at 12 p.m. was a breathtaking event. Even though the ceremony was about celebrating the opening of the 1st Latino/a Student Cultural Center, many of the guest speakers, took the time to talk about the hard work that went into getting the building.

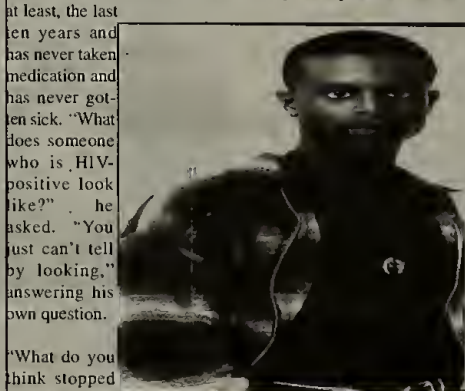
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The ground breaking ceremony for the center was a joyous affair filled with a large assortment of people (students, faculty staff, alumni and community leaders) on hand to witness the historical event. The ceremony started off with the raising of the Latino Student Organization flag on the building. Behind the podium was the flags of Latin America in the ground. After each receiving a warm welcome from the crowd; Linda Delgado (Director of the Latino/a Student Cultural Center), William Rodriguez (Special Asst. to the President on Latino Affairs) Terry "Kilo" Mena (alumnus and former President of LASO) Luis Hernandez (President of L.A.S.D.) and Elvis Cordova (another former President of LASD) took the microphone and shared their personal experiences with the fight for the building. "It's our (current L.A.S.O members) time to step up," said Hernandez.

Sasser Targets NU Community in HIV Lecture

Heather Z. Lyons

Sean Sasser looks healthy. You would never know by sight that this man was HIV-positive. He's been positive for, at least, the last ten years and has never taken medication and has never gotten sick. "What does someone who is HIV-positive look like?" he asked. "You just can't tell by looking," answering his own question.



"What do you think stopped so many people from coming out this evening?" the ex-Real World star asked the small crowd in the Ell Center Ballroom Wednesday, May 7, that came to hear him speak about his experiences living with HIV. Many audience members replied that it was the invisibility of the disease that makes people believe it is not an issue that concerns them. Others, like Diana Gonzalez, said that many people believe it is only a gay issue. "A lot of men of color that I know," she said, "don't associate them-

selves with gay men, especially of a different race. They still don't know the facts [about HIV] but if you can't see how

you will personally be connected with it you can't see your risk. It has to hit home." However, HIV is hitting the heterosexual community. Three to four thousand new cases of HIV are reported per year and the number of HIV infections continues to rise. Sasser reported that heterosexual women are the fastest growing group of individuals contracting HIV. He stressed several times that this is especially true in communities of color. He felt that denial in

A Night Of Achievement

Kafui Tseku

It was a night to remember for some Northeastern freshmen. On April 24, 1997 Ella Roberts, Dean of Special Support Services along with the Minority Student Advisory Board recognized hard working minority students that maintained a 3.0 or better by having an elegant dinner for them in the Faculty Lounge in Kerr Hall. The majors of these students varied from communications, biology, chemistry, journalism, engineering, criminal justice, business, nursing, and physical therapy.

The night itself was filled with excitement for the students. To kick off the evening the students mingled with other and were delighted by caricature drawings of themselves provided by hired cartoonist.

Later that evening they were served dinner and given certificate of achievements by members of the MSAB. Highlighting the awards ceremony were the board member's rendition of 'Let's Make A Deal'.

As some of know being a minority in college is not easy because of the many obstacles against them while in school. Unfortunately some fall into the traps of not studying, which can make matters worse. However, these outstanding student over came those obstacles and excelled.

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Mr. Sasser also spent a good deal of time discussing how being gay and Black in White, mainstream society affected his life. He discussed how he was forced to keep his life a secret as well as how he faced depression and denial. Sasser also elaborated on being ashamed of his "double minority" saying he often slept with many men to try and gain someone's, anyone's approval. This denial, shame and low self-esteem, he told the audience was an indirect cause of his HIV status. While discussing how this is often the case in many situations, he stated "People don't just have unprotected sex knowing that they can be infected. It's not out of convenience. It's not the heat of the moment. It goes a lot deeper than that."

So what can we do to help stop the spread of this epidemic in our community? "Don't rely on me. Start discussion. You all have to support one another, especially our Black and Latina sisters," Sasser suggested.

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On Saturday, May 23, 1997, one of the Northeastern's most highly anticipated events took place in Matthews Arena (No, it was not another one of president Freeland's speeches!). Seven sororities and fraternities participated in the 23rd annual Black Greek step show held in Matthews and dazzled the crowd with their athletic routines.

The sisters of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. (who also sponsored the event) attempted to KO the competition early by coming out dressed in pink and white boxing robes complete with boxing gloves. Two of Northeastern's own, Michelle Goolsby and Tamra Griffith, assisted their fellow 'pretty girls dressed in pearls' in wowing the crowd with a routine that drew a number of 'oohs' and ahhs' from an appreciative audience.

Up next for the ladies division of the step show were the ladies of Delta Sigma Theta, Inc. who proved that they were all business for this year's competition. Headed by Iyeoka Okaowo, another student of Northeastern, the Delta's brought the Matthews' masses to their feet by delighting with a dizzying array of spectacular moves during their routine. Highlighting the Delta's routine was Okaowo's mock challenge to her sister's to match her step for step.

Despite the head turning theatrics of the Delta's routine, the sister's of Sigma Gamma Rho were more than willing to show off their skills to the warmed up crowd at Matthews. By using a such props as canes and cups, the sister's of Sigma Gamma Rho served up a complex routine that impressed the judges and audience of the step show alike.

But what about the fellas? Let's just say that they did not fail to please the masses assembled in Matthews (particularly the females).

Up first for men's division was the fellowship of Groove Phi Groove, who despite only having four member's taking part in the competition was no less intense and entertaining than the rest of their peers.

The brother's of Phi Beta Sigma proved they were 'One in a Million' by delighting the female contingent of the crowd by interrupting their routine to grind to Aaliyah's hit single of the same name.

The best entrance in the step show by far was that of the brother's of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc. who entered the arena in a Boston police car and paddy-wagon. However, the Kappa's were out to prove that their entrance was secondary compared to their routine by thrilling the crowd with intricate moves with their signature red and white canes. Highlighting their routine was their rendition of LL Cool J's classic 'Rock the Bells', whose beat they duplicated by pounding both their feet and canes on the wooded floors of the stage.

Lastly, but certainly not the least, were brother's of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., who performed a routine that seemed increase in intensity with fast paced each step. The Alpha's also seemed to feed off of the excitement provided by the Matthews crowd as well as their members who were spectating a few feet from the stage area.

Alas with all competitions there can only be one winner. Taking first place honors for the women's competition were the ladies of Delta Sigma Theta, Inc., with the ladies of Alpha Kappa Alpha, Inc. and Sigma Gamma Rho, Inc. taking second and third respectively.

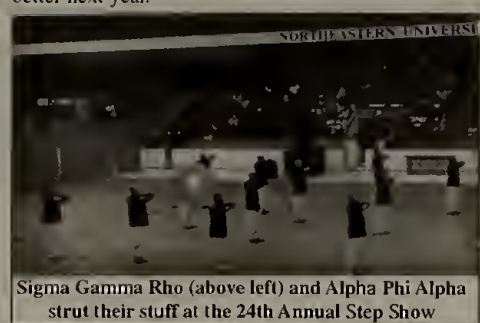
For the men side the brother's of Alpha Phi Al-

May 1997

pha, Inc. took first place, with Kappa Alpha Psi, Inc. and Phi Beta Sigma, Inc. taking second and third place respectively.

However, this year's competition only wetted the appetite for next year's step show for some spectators.

"I thought this year's show was excellent," said NU middler Naquan Cooper. "I think it will only get better next year."



Sigma Gamma Rho (above left) and Alpha Phi Alpha strut their stuff at the 24th Annual Step Show

Revelations:
Alvin Ailey Company

Nga Nguyen

On Friday April 25th, the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater performed at the Wang Center as part of a week-long series. Fans packed the theatre to see this dance company, which has been coming to Boston for more than 30 years.

Every Spring, Ailey fans flock to the Wang Center to see these entertainers dance to the sounds of legendary musicians like Dizzy Gillespie and Count Basie.

Although the Company performed new works by various choreographers, they still maintained important traditional ballets written by founder Alvin Ailey, such as *Revelations*. During his lifetime, Ailey created 79 ballets, which were inspired by the blues, spirituals, and gospel music. As a result of this inspiration came his two most popular works: *Blues Suite* and *Revelations*.

The Alvin Ailey Company started to perform in March 1958 at the 92nd Street Young Men's Hebrew Association in New York. Led by Alvin Ailey, a group of young black modern dancers introduced to the world a different view of American dance. The Ailey Company is now reputed to be the most acclaimed international ambassadors of American culture, because of its role in the preservation and enrichment of the American modern dance heritage and its promotion of the uniqueness of black cultural expression. It is estimated that the Company has performed for 18 million people in 48 states and in 67 countries on six continents.

Despite their hectic schedule, for the past three years, members of the Company have taken time out to participate in a week-long residency outreach program called *Dance Expressions*. In January, three company dancers conducted more than 25 master classes, workshops, and lecture demonstrations for 2,500 students at nine schools. They voluntarily devote their time in order to give these kids a chance to explore dance and to learn about the Alvin Ailey repertoire. The Company's goal is to help them realize their potential and to convey the message that with perseverance, dedication, and hard work, they too can achieve seemingly impossible goals.

Shadow Day

Silvana Masiero

Remember when you were a high school senior and you had all those doubts about going to college? Remember how financial aid problems and your career interests would do nothing more than stress you out? Well, there are many graduating high school seniors this year that are going through the same dilemmas that we did, so that is why some students in the Latin American Student Organization (LASO) decided that they should help out.

A small committee within LASO has taken it upon themselves to go into public high schools within the Boston area and try to get those seniors in high school who feel that they want to hold off on their college careers and urge them to give college another look. LASO is also offering a different perspective of college other than that of expensive tuition and books. This effort is called "Shadow Day."

High school seniors from selected schools will follow (shadow) Northeastern students around the campus and to classes as usual, hopefully getting a feel for

Page 3

A Closer look at Urban Societies.

Cherrell Wilson

There similar patterns in many Black communities. There is too much litter on the streets and the trashmen leave behind more trash than they pick up.

One of the most disturbing things to see, is the amount of liquor stores. In some places there are more liquor than grocery stores. It makes you wonder; why these communities are planned this way, where does the community money end up, and why are people so addicted to the lottery?

Many young people turn to the streets for the other outcasts of society to take care of them and become their family. It is more than evident what is happening to young adults of minority communities. They feel the pressure of society and do not know how to handle it.

Recently there have been plays performed, such as, "My Grandmother Prayed for Me" and "I'm Your Puppet." They related to the effects of drugs, alcohol, guns and violence. All of these factors represent a false power that those who are entrapped can not see. The plays had a possibly solution which was to accept Jesus Christ for help and strength.

Urban Black people often blamed for their living standards, but what about the suburbanites who face the same problems? Their issues are more hidden.

Black people need to voice their opinions much more and become more known with a new positive outlook to change things instead of sitting back and letting stereo types continue to be heard and believed.

what they'll encounter during college career. At the end of their day, LASO will have a small get together and supply them with information on how to get financial aid, scholarships and also answer any questions they might have regarding their career interests.

If you are interested in finding out more about Shadow Day, please contact Silvana Masiero at smasiero@lynx.neu.edu or call the LASO office at (617) 373-3087.

EXPRESSIONS

Believe Me
Robyn Neal

Thank you for all of your love
You're turned this ugly
luckless into a beautiful dove
With all my hopes and dreams
I wish you'll always stay with
me
You are truly a treasure found
You're a hero to me always
serving me when I'm about to
drown
Things happen for a reason!
We're meant to be together
with every changing season
You are my heart and soul
I've made it to the end of my
rainbow and you're my pot of
gold
I'm so lucky to have you in
my life
Hopefully one day I'll be
blessed to become your wife
Sweet you're my #1, 1st, and
only love so true
I wonder every night what did
I do to earn a love like you
I could never imagine a love
so strong
I trust, I lust, I love, I want to
make love with you all night
long
A passionate night with a man
like you
My mind tends to think about
all the things we can do
My leg here, your hand there
my lips here, your arms there,
my hands here, and lips
where?
No one can possible imagine
how I feel about you
Don't believe me when I say
I'm in love with you
Can this love get any better
Yes it can our love is like the
weather
We may have our rainy days
But at the end there's that
rainbow to say it's O.K.
I could never imagine a love so
strong
Believe me when I say
I trust, I lust, I love, I want to
make love with you all night
long
I'll love you forever! You
are my hero!

1-N-A-1,000,000
Maxamillian-Shell
Crawford

One in a million?

Yeah that's me
Talk about unique

I smile...
Everyone smiles back
No I'm serious!
No one can resist my smile
even when angry
I speak...
All Listen!
No lying!
Everyone waits for each word
to leave my mouth
I dance...
All cheer, "Go Maxi!"
I'm not playing!
Only the cutest brothers dance
with me
I write...
Eyes fill with tears!
It's the truth!
Lives change according to my

words

I'm
Sweet...
Sassy...
Smart...
Sensuous...
Bold...
Beautiful...
Breathtaking...
All that...
1-N-A-1,000,000

Traveling Without
Moving

Conway A. Downing

Trees Fly by my eyes at
breakneck speed
Towns are but mere memories
as I
Continue on this fantastic
voyage
I'm traveling without moving
During My voyage the
scenery changes
In a blink of an eye
From a sprawling city
landscape complete
With towering skyscrapers
that threaten to
Breach the infinite vault of the
sky
To vast country meadows
complete with the
Greenest of greens and the
richest shades of
Browns rivaling that of the
vaunted Elysian fields
I'm traveling without moving
Speeding cars struggle to keep
pace
As I continue to race
Towards my final destination
that
Seems so close yet so far
away
I'm traveling without moving
But in the process getting
nowhere
Really fast

Open Letter:
Students ActiveIsIn
DeeJay Mills

Hello! Is anyone there? Help me! Help!
You, seeder of truth, pupil of Higher Learning.
Why, do you leave me here to die.
Pass me on by, but I am still alive.
I exist because of you. I am not dead,
just merely beaten, battered, and bruised.
Yet you choose to abandon me.
You who search for enlightenment, now place me in darkness.
Try to suppress remains of my past, so strong, in stone cast,
built with enormous energy, so to outlast any storm,
prefabricated or nature's norm
You with drive, young and so alive,
full of pride, now try to hide.
You who fear nothing soon cower at my sight.
Don't you understand I am a tool to change wrong into right.
So I ask where did you go, and why did you leave me here so
alone.
I was the life flowing through your veins,
red with anger, yet positive in my approach,
brilliantly red as they cut my Oamn throat,
made you choke, spit me up and inject poison in my place.
False images displayed to taint and destroy my game.
So you with your heads in the books, giving me strange looks.
What ever happen to our power?
BLACK POWER!
PUERTO RICAN POWER!
ASIAN POWER!
STUDENT POWER!
Once again I remind,
ALL POWER TO THE PEOPLE!
It's time for the sequel, repeat after me:
ALL POWER TO THE PEOPLE!
We were all created equal.
You surprise me, you, especially.
Students with direction and need,
you must stand up tall or fall to your knees.
Why do you leave me here to die,
from the fires of Hell will I rise for
I am the Only solution.
signed on the dotted line, bottom side,
Once again ONNA MOVE,
REVOLUTION!!!
REVOLUTION, Peace, Knowledge, and Wisdom, signed,
REVOLUTION, aka...Student Activism

PS> I plead, please hear my cry and manifest what I have said,
'cause if I die...YOU...are already dead.



THE PURE ONES
Maxamillian-Shell Crawford

This goes out to all
those people who are still
vir gins. Keep strong and
know what your doing
ishard but rewarding.
My Gift to You
Untouched...
Pure...
A woman...
Your equal...

They tried...
They taunted...
They tempted....

Yet
They walk away angry
Questioning their manhood
While I laugh!

My love...
My friend...
My husband...

My gift to you?
All of me which no one else
had.

Another Shade of Pale and Brown

Iyeoka Ivie Okaawa

Someday my prince will come
and
I'll feel it in a somewhat
mystical way
He'll expand my heart far
beyond it's usual limits
And instigate an emotion of a
rather personal volume
He'll create a deliberate ache
That I just can't shake
And send me spinning through
a forgotten world
Where music is transformed
from notes to sound
With a productive, seductive
collaboration of deeper
meaning
Someday my Prince will come
And his disembodied voice
will create a fairy tale where I

am his Princess
The cultural expression of our
unlikely union will be a reality
When my roots and His roots
display an aura of complete
Royalty
Sacrifices of polished percep-
tions
Will lead us to into situations
Where for me to be Me is
unusual
But for him to be him is
acceptable
Someday my Prince will come
And We'll celebrate our
differences in our most
expressive language
Not in German of French
Not Yoraba or Edo
But the universal language of

Love
My Prince will school me on
the art of survival
In a World Where All is
Another Shade of Pale and
Brown
My presents in this world will
invoke a motivated art
Oeclearing it our Right to set
creativity to another sound
Rocking the tradition of this
world literally upside down
A revolution will begin in this
Mystical place
And My Niggerism will
stimulate
An unacceptable rage of
unbelievable craze
Yet My Prince will stand by
me the same

Unexpected, of course, with
all his love and trust
A stable rock with no remorse
No discussion will be needed
for our strength to heard
Crossing rivers
Climbing mountains
Overturning five Moons,
Burning oceans
Building hills
Rewriting history to fit our
groove
Dramatic will be our Love in
this land
My Prince and I will travel
back to my world hand and
hand
With a spirit and a mission for
a gifted dilemma
And we will rock a Revolution

on yet another
Our purpose not to rule,
nothing that cruel
More a contribution of our
new Revolution
A stimulation for change, an
expression of another view
A universe of divine places,
No stress on our different
faces
A positive realm of insanity
A window of truly living
reality
Defeating differences
Living life
Living Cultures
Living Love...
Living... Beyond the Limits of
Just Another Shade of Pale
and Brown

EXPRESSIONS

Believe Me
Robyn Nod

1-N-A-1,000,000
Moxomillion-Shell
Crawford

Traveling Without
Moving

Conway A. Downing

One in a million?

Yeah that's me
Talk about unique

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Everyone smiles back
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even when angry
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Pure...
A woman...
Your equal...

Yet
They walk away angry
Questioning their manhood
While I laugh!

My love...
My friend...
My husband...

My gift to you?
All of me which no one else
had.

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Lyeka Ivie Okoawa

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and Brown

The Onyx Informer May 1997 Starting Over: NU Meet President Freeland

By Deelay Mills

The 1997 - 97 school year brought about a lot of change for the university. The rebuilding of NBSA, the continued fight for the Latino Cultural Center, and a new president, Richard Freeland. With the arrival of President Freeland, students of color are wondering where they stand. Many organizations had relationships with former President Curry and with everyone in the dark, President Freeland let the Onyx know his position on "minority issues."

One of the greatest losses to students of color this year was attributed to the 77% cuts to the budgets of the Latino, Latin American and Caribbean Studies, African American Studies, Asian Studies, Women's Studies, etc. Programs. President Freeland said that he "think(s) it is terrible. My goal, I feel, is to get the University back into financial stability and therefore back to a time when we can provide appropriate support for ethnic studies programs and other important functions as well."

He said that he would not like to talk about things that he wasn't there for and "would like to focus on...the fact that I really want to provide strong support for these programs."

With the ethnic studies programs come the topic of diversity. President Freeland stresses that "I think diversity is an essential element at Northeastern...the central character of this University is an Urban University, we are here to reflect the urban community...We have a very strong minority membership, very strong African-American membership and we need to be about the business of reflection that back in everything we do, that includes who we hire, our faculty and staff, who we enroll as students, what the tone of the institution is, what the curriculum of the institution looks like and special efforts to reach out to minority communities in the city."

He went on to speak about the Lane Commission, headed by Prof. Harlan Lane, which was established in 1982. That report included 82 specific recommendations on how to strengthen diversity at NU. It has guided the University's efforts the last couple of years. Freeland adds that "it will continue to provide the general framework for the period ahead. We are, this year, going to do an audit of how Northeastern is doing in achieving those 82 goals." The results of the audit were supposed to be done by spring.

Freeland also continuously stressed how he felt that the staff, faculty and administrative staff should reflect the community that is serves and that he has "set aside some special funds in the provost's office to make sure that there are finances available to support African-American hires, when good people are available and we will continue to put money into that I will continue personally to put pressure on the deans of the various departments who do pose affirmative action searches" (emphasis added).

With respect to admissions, we need to do a number of things to recruit more aggressively in the minority community which is our goal. We're going to put some additional sources to the admissions office to make sure they have an opportunity to reach out to the minority communities. We're also going to target some financial aid this year specifically to attract more minority students, multi-cultural students (emphasis added).

We want to focus on strengthening our minority participation. I am as much concerned about diversity and retention as diversity in admissions, however, as you probably know, our statistics for graduation minority students are not as high as we would like them. (emphasis added).

The retention of 'minority' students is a major problem and Freeland proposed a solution. "I do want to invertly increase the number of minority students in our student body but we want to increase the percentage of those who graduate. In order to do that we are going to be doing a couple of things. One is strengthening our commitment to financial aid on a continuing basis for students, not when they come in as freshman but continuing through the full five years of their program here. You might know that there has been a pattern of reducing the amount of financial aid available to the students after the freshman year and I'm sure that this contributes to the students not being able to complete their studies. (emphasis added) In addition to that we have a variety of programs that provide special support for minority students to the graduation and I want to continue those like the excellent work that's done by the O'Bryant Institute and I want to increase support for mentoring programs, which have proved quite successful through which minority students are paired with a member of faculty of staff who knows the ropes and can supply the support to provide a system..."

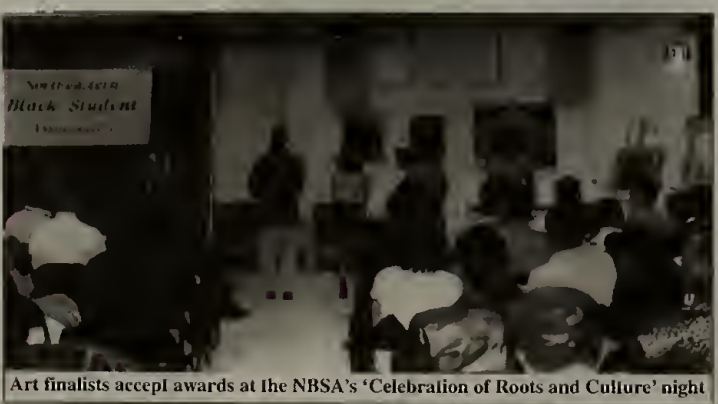
Another point to diversity is that he said he wants "to have a curriculum and program that students from all backgrounds feel reflects their interest and their concerns and their and their culture..." I've recently created an urban outreach council chaired by Prof. Michael Oukakis. to look at everything we are doing to reach out in the urban community and to make sure we're doing as much as we can do and doing it as effectively as possible we're going to continue to take initiatives we just got some money from the federal government to work in Roxbury to promote economic development. We've put a major grant in the Hellanor Foundation also to work in Roxbury to community development and educational development and we want to make sure that in these out reach activities we provide opportunities for faculty and students to get involved so faculty members have greater contact with our neighbors and students have an opportunity to learn through interaction..."

Freeland feels that Northeastern University has a 'good track record with diversity' and he want to continue this. He thinks that "Northeastern should lead the way but we're also bound to some extent to reflect what the general culture thinks".

Now some say that you can hold a position of great power and posses none. As for the tenure process, this is different. We a professor has tenure, he or she has actually power. As for the students contributing to that, there is mixed feelings. Freeland states, "My own view is that student input into the tenure process is extremely important...I have no reason to believe that theses opinion surveys are taken lightly. Faculty have a range of responsibilities...They are required to be successful scholars, we take a look at their professional standing. As scholars, which largely means that getting the opinion of their professional peers around the country. We need to understand their contributions...I've never heard of a situation where someone was denied tenure because of their recommendations were too strong...my own feeling would be the stronger the recommendation, the stronger the case. I would say that I am not aware of any double standard, but I there is a concern about lack of fairness in the process which that would suggest, that is of great concern (emphasis added)." Also of great concern to President Freeland is the housing crunch at the school. "At the absolute top of my list for facility development at Northeastern in the future is more dormitory space, apartments, and more housing. We're working very hard on that right now."

As for student activism. Freeland said, "to me, single most important characteristic of the university is that it is a forum for free speech and a forum for the open exchange of ideas, therefore, I would never attempt in any case to impede a student group from inviting a speaker onto campus (emphasis added). Even ideas which are unacceptable to me or unacceptable to large parts of the community. We have to learn to hear some people we don't agree with."

So with that in mind I challenge every student at Northeastern University to manifest what has been written here. We as students have promises and need to see to it that they are met. We welcome President Richard Freeland, but at the same time, we will hold him and other administrators accountable for all that they say. PEACE



Art finalists accept awards at the NBSA's 'Celebration of Roots and Culture' night

COMING EVENTS

- May 14th: The Onyx Informer Presents 'On The MOVE' on the second floor of the African-American Institute at 8pm.
- May 14th: Update on the Haitian Refugee Situation. Ronald Aubourg, guest speaker at the African-American Institute at 6pm.
- May 16th: Soirée Kryol at the Curry Student Ballroom 6pm. Admission \$5.
- May 19th: Ebonics Panel Discussion at 186 Holmes 12pm.
- May 19th: Omega Phi Beta informational at the Curry Student Center 5pm. *Proper attire requested* For more information call Michelle Miguez at (617) 352 - 9596.
- May 31th 1st Annual Be Out Day for more information call Morris Flood at ext. 4919

NU Barkada and Cape Verdian Student Org Onyx Editors

The Onyx Informer would like to recongnize and welcome two new 'minority' organizations on campus: The NUBarkada (the Filipino Club) and The Cape Verdian Club. The Onyx Informer congratulates you both on your provisional statuses and supports you on your progress to full status as an official Northeastern University Organization.

BLACK FACTS

1940, Haddie Mc Daniel becomes the first African-American to win an oscar when she recieves the Academy Award for Best Supporting Actress in "Gone With The Wind."

1969, Clifton Reginal Wharton Jr., is appointed of Michigan State University; he is the first African-American to head a major University.

Bahá'í Club

Núri Chandler-Smith

"The Buh-what club?"
"Your a Bah-who?"

I've been asked these and similar questions for some time now, so I thought I ought to clear up the confusion and set the record straight. My name is Núri Chandler-Smith and I am the current president of the Northeastern University Bahá'í (pronounced buh-hai) Club.

The Bahá'í Faith is a religion—an independent, (meaning that it is not a sect or an off-shoot) world-wide religion. There are over 5 million Bahá'ís in the world and between 120-150 thousand in the U.S.

Bahá'í means "Follower of The Glory" in Arabic. This Faith was founded 154 years ago in Iran by the Prophet Bahá'u'lláh, (whose name means "The Glory of God") whose Revelation was the fulfillment of the promises of all the world's great religions. Since that time the Faith has spread to every country in the world.

The 3 fundamental principles of The Bahá'í Faith are:

1. The Oneness of God; that there is only one God (Alláh, Yahweh, Jah, Universal Power, Great Spirit, whichever title you prefer).

2. The Oneness of Religion; that all of the world's religions come from that One God and are, therefore, essentially one. They are however, revealed to humanity in progressive stages, according to the capacity of people living at a given time, much like the progression of grades in school. The spiritual essences of these Faiths (Buddhism, Christianity, Islam, Hinduism, Judaism, Indigenous religions etc.) are the same, but the social teachings change and progress over time.

3. The Oneness of humanity; that all people are created equal (not the same, but equal) in the Sight of God, regardless of race, gender, religion, nationality, belief etc. and should be treated as such. There is a quotation from The Bahá'í Holy Scripture which states: "The earth is but one country and mankind its citizens."

HARMONIOUS RHYTHM:

The John D. O'Bryant African American Institute Unity Ensemble Gospel Choir
DeeJay Mills

The John D. O'Bryant African American Unity Ensemble Gospel Choir has now completed its fourth year of existence and is around the corner from being recognized as an official organization. Although the choir got off to a rough start this year, it has managed to pull things together as it continued

Now that y'all know a little bit about The Bahá'í Faith, let me tell you about the N.U. Bahá'í Club. It was founded in 1974 in order to provide a forum in which people of all faiths (or those not of any faith) could

1. Learn and teach about The Bahá'í Faith.

2. Work collectively for righteous, positive causes, such as promoting racial unity, the equality of women and men and unity in diversity.

3. Establish bonds of love and unity amongst themselves and others.

When I came to Northeastern in the Fall of '94, there were two other Bahá'ís on campus. Attendance at meetings and events ranged from 3-15 people that year. For the past 1 1/2 years I have been basically the only active member of the club and the only Bahá'í on campus. Until now.

As of this quarter, the membership of the N.U. Bahá'í Club has tripled in size!!! Yup, you got it. We now have 3 active members (2 of which are Bahá'ís)! There are also a total of three Bahá'ís on campus. At our last event, we had an attendance of 40+ people.

Recently folks have been wondering what the Bahá'í Faith/Club is. Well if ya don't know now ya know...

On the serious tip though, look out for some end of the quarter events including a video showing of a talk given this past March in the John D. O'Bryant African American Institute, by Joy DeGruy Leary on The Axiology Concept and Post Traumatic Slavery Syndrome. For those who missed her live, she was tha bomb! Do not miss the video. Details to come. Also, check out the fall quarter issue of the Onyx for a story on the Bahá'í Club's summer trip to South Africa!

For more information on events or on our revolutionary evolution in general, please contact Núri Chandler-Smith (617) 766-7446 or leave a message in the Bahá'í Club mailbox in the Student Activities Office.

to grow in both membership and talent due in large part to its director, Jonathan Singleton.

The Gospel Choir began and also died in 1988, however it was later revived in 1993 by Carlton Aiken, who was a member of the original choir. Unfortunately in 1994, Carlton departed and the choir had to search for a new conductor. The choir had a hard time finding a suitable director, however, they finally decided on Singleton, a Berkeley graduate, later that year, Jonathan took the choir under his wing and has since molded it in to the powerful instrument it is now.

The choir started this school year's performances in November leading up to their

Unity Day on the Quad

By Claude M. Sneed Jr.

Unity Day on the Quad turned out to be a serious party. Thursday, May 1, 1997 was the date for this year's edition of the over twenty year old tradition here at Northeastern University. Unity Day on the Quad is a day when most of the student groups of color are invited out on the Krentzman Quadrangle to set up tables advertising their organizations and enjoy the sounds of the DJ who is playing the latest R&B, Hip Hop, and Reggae tracks. Its purpose is to bring students of color together for a fun and festive event. This year's event was co-sponsored by the John D. O'Bryant African-American Institute and the Northeastern Black Student Association (NBSA). Organizations attending this year's Unity Day were Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority Inc., Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc., the Latin American Student Organization (LASO), Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc., the John D. O'Bryant African-American Institute, Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity Inc., Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc., the African Student Organization, the Caribbean Student Organization and NBSA. Even Northeastern President Richard Freeland attended the event and took the time to meet with various students and student groups.

This year, Unity Day started out rather conservatively. Despite the obvious skills of DJ MCA (a.k.a. Junior TV communications major Michael Anderson), most people in attendance were dancing in their own groupings or talking. This might have been the way the event was all day if it had not been for a freshman Communications major and NBSA historian, Maxine Crawford (a.k.a. never gets tired). She got on the mic and first encouraged the students at the event to have a good time and to visit the organization tables. Then she began to force

anyone that she could (including the writer) to get out in front of the DJ and dance even if they were the only couple out there. Before you knew it, there was a full blown party going on with everyone else out there dancing too.

Sherletha Albert, a senior Sociology major and the current president of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority Inc., "Unity day on the Quad is an event where all the minority organizations on campus can unite and come to show their stuff. This is a great opportunity for my organization to meet and talk with perspective members." Denis D'Arbela, a senior Civil Engineering major and African Student Organization member said "This day is important for promoting diversity on this campus, particularly because the issues that face minority students are at the forefront of the advocating of diversity movement." "After a day of hard work," said Elvis Cordova, a senior Criminal Justice major, "it's good for all of us to come together and have a good time. There's good music, good people, good times and we need to know that we still have that."

Some Northeastern staff also reflected on the significance of Unity Day on the Quad. "Unity Day, in my opinion represents the coming together of the organizations of African descent. It is a time in the year when the groups, despite any differences they may have, can come together to celebrate and enjoy a festive day," said Morris Flood, the Coordinator of Events and Operations for the John D. O'Bryant African-American Institute. Dean Ella Robertson, Director of the Northeastern Special-Support Services Office said "This day is important because it is able to bring black people together, who normally pass by each other everyday, to have fun on the Quad."

Caribbean Conference Returns to NU

By Kerritt McLaughlyn
News Correspondent

The 5th Annual Northeast Region Caribbean Conference was "a success because it accomplished its goal of bringing Caribbean students together, teaching students interested about the Caribbean and showcasing NU and its surrounding community," said Keno Mullings, President of the Northeastern Caribbean Students Organization.

The conference, which started at Northeastern five years ago, returned on April 11-13, this year. Students from colleges in the entire Northeastern region of the United States gathered on campus to discuss issues facing the Caribbean. These included the question of preserving Caribbean culture in the American melting pot, the pros and cons of the Caribbean tourism industry, the Caribbean today, health issues and the impact of small businesses on a Global economy.

Speakers included Dr. Robin Chandler, who investigated how West Indians preserve their heritage and culture in the US; Lee Bailey questioned how the Caribbean benefits from tourism without losing control of the region; Dr. Cardinal Warde focused on Technology 2000 - the Caribbean's need to catch up to the technology of the next century. Other presenters included Claude Marshall, Lorna Fairweather and a panel of Carol Archer, Jerry George, Frank Taylor and Bert Thomas.

"The conference was good," said Vaughn Marshall, this year's Host and Chairman, "because we were able to attract more schools in the region, than ever before. We also improved on the caliber of our workshops. They were more interactive and students participated more."

"The workshops were informative," said Alesea Jacobs, freshman journalism major, "I learned about bringing the knowledge I gain in college back to my home country."

Activities for conference participants included icebreakers; a model CARICOM (summit for Caribbean government leaders); and photo shoots; banquet and award ceremony; party and a Caribbean jepadée. Jacobs said, "Caribbean jepadée was really graphic. It had lots of information on the Caribbean."

Next years conference will be held at Brown University in Providence, R.I.

THE ONYX INFORMER

430 CURRY
STUDENT CENTER
360 Huntington Ave
Boston, MA 02115
(617) 373 - 2250



Unity Choir 'Pressing On' at their fourth annual concert

first annual Christmas concert at the African American Institute where there was a large turnout.

The illustrious voices and the power of the band created a church like atmosphere as members of the audience stood up, waved their hands side to side, and called out as if they had been touched by God.

During this academic

year, the choir accomplished much with the leadership Hillary Gabbidon serving as president, Michael Allwood as vice president, Annya Haughton as secretary, Andrea Francis as Librarian and Deidre Degraffenreid as treasurer.

"We need more people, more members who are serious, dedicated, and moti-

See Gospel pg. 8

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Bahá'ís in the world and be-

tween 120-150 thousand in the

US.

Bahá'í means "Fol-

lower of The Glory" in Arabic.

This Faith was founded 154

years ago in Iran by the Prophet

Bahá'u'lláh, (whose name

means "The Glory of God")

whose Revelation was the

fulfillment of the promises of all

the world's great religions.

Since that time the Faith has

spread to every country in the

world.

The 3 fundamental

principles of The Bahá'í Faith

are:

1. The Oneness of

God; that there is only one God

(Alláh, Yahweh, Jah, Universal

Power, Great Spirit, whichever

title you prefer).

2. The Oneness of Re-

ligion; that all of the world's re-

ligions come from that One God

and are, therefore, essentially

one. They are however, revealed

to humanity in progressive

stages, according to the capac-

ity of people living at a given

time, much like the progression

of grades in school. The spiri-

tual essences of these Faiths

(Buddhism, Christianity, Islam,

Hinduism, Judaism, Indigenous

religions etc.) are the same, but

the social teachings change and

progress over time.

3. The Oneness of hu-

manity; that all people are cre-

ated equal (not the same, but

equal) in the Sight of God, re-

gardless of race, gender, reli-

gion, nationality, belief etc. and

should be treated as such. There

is a quotation from The Bahá'í

Holy Scripture which states:

"The earth is but one country

and mankind its citizens."

HARMONIOUS

RHYTHM:

The John D. O'Bryant

African American

Institute

Unity Ensemble Gospel

Choir

DeeJay Mills

The John D. O'Bryant

African American Unity En-

semble Gospel Choir has now

completed it's fourth year of ex-

istence and is around the corner

from being recognized as an

official organization. Although

the choir got off to a rough start

this year, it has managed to pull

things together as it continued

Unity Day on the Quad

By Claude M. Sneed Jr.

Unity Day on the

Quad turned out to be a serious

party. Thursday, May 1, 1997

was the date for this year's edi-

tion of the over twenty year old

tradition here at Northeastern

University. Unity Day on the

Quad is a day when most of the

student groups of color are in-

vited out on the Krentzman

Quadrangle to set up tables ad-

vertising their organizations and

enjoy the sounds of the DJ who

is playing the latest R&B, Hip

Hop, and Reggae tracks. It's

purpose is to bring students of

color together for a fun and fes-

tive event. This year's event

was co-sponsored by the John

D. O'Bryant African-American

Institute and the Northeastern

Black Student Association

(NBSA). Organizations attend-

ing this year's Unity Day were

Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority

Inc., Alpha Kappa Alpha Soror-

ity Inc., the Latin American Stu-

dent Organization (LASO),

Delta Sigma Theta Sorority

Inc., the John O. O'Bryant Afri-

cain-American Institute, Phi

Beta Sigma Fraternity Inc., Al-

pha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc.,

the African Student Organi-

zation and NBSA. Even

Northeastern President Richard

Freeland attended the event and

took the time to meet with vari-

ous students and student groups.

This year, Unity Day

started out rather conserva-

tively. Despite the obvious

skills of OJ MCA (a.k.a. Junior

TV communications major

Michael Anderson), most

people in attendance were dan-

cing in their own groupings or

talking. This might have been

the way the event was all day if

it had not been for a freshman

Communications major and

NBSA historian, Maxine

Crawford (a.k.a. never gets

tired). She got on the mic and

first encouraged the students at

the event to have a good time

and to visit the organization

tables. Then she began to force

anyone that she

could (including the writer) to

get out in front of the DJ and

dance even if they were the only

couple out there. Before you

knew it, there was a full blown

party going on with everyone

else out there dancing too.

Sherletha Albert, a se-

nior Sociology major and the

current president of Sigma

Gamma Rho Sorority Inc.,

"Unity day on the Quad is an

event where all the minority or-

ganizations on campus can unite

and come to show their stuff.

This is a great opportunity for

my organization to meet and

talk with perspective mem-

bers." Denis D'Arbela, a senior

Civil Engineering major and

African Student Organization

member said "This day is im-

portant for promoting diversity

on this campus, particularly be-

cause the issues that face minor-

ity students are at the forefront

of the advocating of diversity

movement." "After a day of

hard work," said Elvis Cordova,

a senior Criminal Justice major,

"it's good for all of us to come

Caribbean

Conference

Returns to NU

By Kerria McClaughlyn

News Correspondent

The 5th Annual North-

east Region Caribbean Con-

ference was "a success" because it

accomplished its goal of bring-

ing Caribbean students together,

teaching students interested

about the Caribbean and show-

casing NU and its surrounding

community," said Keno

Mullings, President of the

Northeastern Caribbean Stu-

dents Organization.

The conference, which

started at Northeastern five

years ago, returned in April 11-

13, this year. Students from col-

leges in the entire Northeast

region of the United States gar-

thered on campus to discuss is-

ssues facing the Caribbean.

These included the question of

preserving Caribbean culture in

the American melting pot, the

pros and cons of the Caribbean

tourism industry, the Caribbean

today, health issues and the im-

pact of small businesses on a

Global economy.

Speakers included Or-

Robin Chandler, who investi-

gated how West Indians pre-

serve their heritag, and culture

in the US; Lee Bailey ques-

tioned how the Caribbean ben-

efits from tourism without los-

ing control of the region; Or-

Cardinal Warde focused on

Technology 2000 - the

Caribbean's need to catch up

to the technology of the next

century. Other preseners in-

cluded Claude Marshall, Lorna

Fairweather and a panel of

Carol Archer, Jerry George,

Frank Taylor and Ben Thomas.

"The conference was

good," said Vaughn Marshall,

this year's Host and Chairman,

"because we were able to attract

more schools in the region, than

ever before. We also improved

on the caliber of our workshops.

They were more interactive and

students participated more."

"The workshops were

informative," said Alesea

Jacobs, freshman journalism

major. "I learned about bring-

ing the knowledge I gain in col-

lege back to my home country."

Activities for confer-

ence participants included ice-

breakers; a model CARICOM

(summit for Caribbean govern-

ment leaders); a photo shoot;

banquet and award ceremony;

party and a Caribbean Japadee.

Jacobs said, "Caribbean Japadee

was really grapple. It had lots

of information on the Carib-

bean."

Next year's conference

will be held at Brown Univer-

sity in Providence, R.I.

THE ONYX

INFORMER

430 C RRY

STUDENT CENTER

360 Huntington Ave

Boston, MA 02115

(617) 373 - 2250

Luis Hernandez reflects upon his tenure as president of LASO (Latin American Student Organization) and his three years as a student at Northeastern University.

To The NU Community,

I want to take this opportunity to explain my experience as President of the Latin American Student Organization (LASO) and to express my gratitude to everyone who has assisted me in my endeavors and made my experience meaningful and worthwhile.

I remember the first time that I stepped into a LASO meeting as a bewildered freshman who did not know what to expect from LASO or Northeastern. I was immediately welcomed with open arms. This came as a surprise to me because no where else on this campus had that happened in my first few days here. From that moment on, I fell in love with LASO. At that point, I knew that I wanted to be president someday and I was convinced that I eventually would be. That time came last Spring when I was officially elected by my NU family (LASO) to be their head of the household (President).

The summer of 1996 is when I officially began my term. Every week we held a meeting to plan out the rest of the academic year. Not many members were around to make it to those summer meetings, but the few that did were very helpful and insightful. This year would not have been a success without them. As the summer came to a close, an anxiety was growing inside of me because I did not know what to expect.

Our first encounter with the newly expanded LASO family came in the second day of the Fall quarter when we had our Latino Orientation. This was co-sponsored with the Caribbean Student Organization and all of the other Latino entities on this campus. The room held nearly 100 new students. Although it was very nerve-wrecking for me, it was a huge success. Our first general LASO meeting had over eighty students (as a matter of fact, throughout the year the attendance at our meetings rarely fell below sixty). Even with an unexpected fire alarm, that too was a success which showed the following week when we had our annual Parade of Flags. From that moment on, LASO was moving full speed ahead and never looking back.

LASO has held many events and activities this year which I do not feel necessary to mention. We have formed many friendships, with many other student organizations, various university officials, and community organizations, which were not there or as tight in the past. Our doors have opened more to everyone, not just Latinos, which set an example of how a society can be accepting of everyone no matter what and still be able to get along. More

than anything else, LASO has continued to grow tighter as a family.

As you can see, LASO has continued to be very successful and I have enjoyed being a part of this, but it has also been very frustrating and tiring. This feeling comes from many things such as the lack of mentors, internal gossip and rumors, lack of cooperation (not always but sometimes), and the lack of interest and appreciation in some of the successes from our past battles, especially the Latino, Latin American and Caribbean Studies Program. The last frustration is the scariest and most frustrating to me because I know that many students before us, and some of us here now, have sacrificed a lot to get us to where we are now. I know firsthand that a lot of our predecessors, that fought so hard for these things, would be frustrated to know that we are not interested in them or continuing to fight for them. At the same time, I am obligated to take some of the responsibility for this because as one of the "dinosaurs" of LASO, it is my responsibility to help people appreciate how we got to this level and to help prepare them to take LASO to the next level. Perhaps all of this year's responsibilities have not allowed me to do so, but for the rest of my NU career I am dedicated to this endeavor.

Now I must thank those who have helped make this year a success. First of all, I must thank God and mi mama y mi papa for without them I would not be here. I must thank mis hermanitas (Hilda y Nati) and my friends (especially Randy) from home for their support. On this side of the world, I must begin with the members of the LASO familia from the past and present because without them there would be no LASO. I am very grateful to Professor Felix V. Matos-Rodriguez and Joe Latimer for being the best advisors anyone could ever ask for. Then there are a few true friends, especially (in no specific order) Claudia, Felo, Willie, Linda, Hector, Chauncy, Ana T., Ada, Ana G., Geo, and Kilo, who I am eternally grateful to for keeping me focused, always being real to me, and always being there for me in my times of need when nobody else was. All of the other student organizations that we did anything with or helped us in any way, shape, or form (you know who you are) I am also grateful to. I am grateful to all of the faculty and staff (too many) who have practically bent over backwards for us. Your sacrifice of putting student's concerns first, in a world where down-

sizing and research is all that counts, means a lot to all of us. Finally, I must thank those people who back-stabbed and criticized me and LASO (you really know who you are) for keeping me motivated. **THANK YOU** to all the people mentioned above and to those that I forgot!

I must congratulate the Onyx for coming back, bigger and better than ever, when everyone else thought it could not happen. I truly

is a relief to know that as a "minority" student, we now have a voice on this campus that will properly represent us.

Best of luck and congratulations to the next executive board of LASO: Ada Medina (President), DeeJay Mills (Vice-President), Melissa Ocasio (Treasurer), and Sandra Dusque (Secretary). I am convinced that you will be the most successful e-board any organization has ever seen. Keep in mind that if needed, I am at your disposal.

Sinceramente,

Luis A. Hernandez, Jr.

Questions:

1. What the Hell ever happened to ReRun, Dwane, and Rodger from 'What's Happening'?
2. Whatever happened to Emcees gaining respect by writing their own lyrics?
3. Remember when "keepin' it real" actually meant keepin' it real and not "fakin' the funk"?
4. Why do we think that KRS - One's new album is going to be the bomb?
-

MOVE cont. from pg. 1

On March 16, 1978, an army of hundreds of cops invaded the neighborhood and sealed off a four block area. They posted sharpshooters on adjacent buildings and machine gun nests. They turned off all the utilities and arrested everyone attempting to bring MOVE food or water.

This starvation only brought problems to the community. Traffic had to be detoured, residents needed identification to get to and from their homes, and reporters noted that the city spending for police overtime had passed the million dollar mark.

April 4, 1978 thousands of people marched around city hall in a massive demonstration to end the insanity. Through the protests, the event became internationally known and brought only embarrassment to the US.

By August of 1978, the government had searched MOVE's house to insure the absence of weapons and explosives, continued to keep the house under surveillance after the search, manufactured the appearance of a legal basis to arrest MOVE, and kept legal improprieties out of media coverage while making MOVE out to be the villains.

On August 8, hundreds of cops suited in riot gear surrounded the house at dawn and ordered MOVE to surrender. With modified construction vehicles, they then tore down the fence and smashed out the windows. Just before 7am, MOVE was notified by bullhorn that "Uniformed officers will enter your house for the purpose of taking each of you into custody. Any resistance or use of force will be met with force." Within the next hour, 45 armed police entered the house to find that MOVE had barricaded themselves in the basement. By 8am, firemen pried off the boards the basement windows and turned on water cannons, flooding the basement. Suddenly gunshots rang out and police open fired. During the gunfire, Officer James Ramp was dead, shot from behind. After the police emptied their weapons into a basement, where some had admitted to hearing screaming women and children, they teargassed it.

By this time, MOVE members began to carry out children. The police excessive force only got worse as they heat the MOVE members coming out of the basement. The Philly police proved that they were nothing but pigs as Officer Joseph Zagame, with his riot helmet, smashed Delbert Africa's face in as he approached from the basement window empty-handed with outstretched arms. At the same

time Officer Lawrence D'Ulisse attacked Delbert, striking him with the butt of a shotgun. They then dragged him by his hair to the sidewalk, where four uniformed beat him unmerciful. This was just the beginning; as police, on horseback, chased neighbors into their houses and beating them as well.

Of the 12 adults arrested, 9 were each given 30 to 100 year sentences for killing one cop with one bullet from one gun which everyone knew that they never had. The other three signed affidavits stating that they were no longer part of MOVE and that they would never associate with MOVE again and were set free. The other 9 political MOVE prisoners refused.

The second part of our story takes us to Osage Ave in West Philly. The date: May 13, 1985, exactly 12 years ago. Police harassment and brutality was ongoing prior to this. In violation of police regulations, FBI policies, and federal laws regarding the transfer of explosives, police obtained 37 pounds of C-4 from the FBI. The police then towed away parked cars and cleared the 6200 block of Osage Ave.

On Monday May 13th, the city launched a full scale attack using tear gas, water cannons, shot guns, Uzis, M-16's, silenced weapons, Browning Automatic Rifles, M-60 machine guns, a 20mm anti-tank gun, and a 50 caliber machine gun. They tried to do the exact same thing they attempted to do August 8, 1978. This time they wanted to make sure they finished the job. After the weapons and explosives didn't work, they used a police helicopter to drop a homemade bomb on the roof. The firemen and police sat back and watched the building burn, while police shot at anyone who attempted to escape. By the end of the night 60 some homes had burnt down killing six adults and five children. The only survivor was Ramona Africa who was beaten and arrested.

Now MOVE is working to free the MOVE9 (political prisoners from the August 8, 1978 confrontation) and Munia Abu-Jamal, while still fighting the system that oppresses us. Come to the African-American Institute, Wed. May 14th at 8pm after the NBSA meeting and actually see the video footage of the brutality and excessive force. The video will be followed by a discussion.

This type of thing happens all the time. The police and government abuse the power given to them by the people. We need to take that power back and hold them accountable for their actions. ON THE MOVE!!! PEACE

Gospel cont. from pg. 6

vated. We need to let people know that we are here," says Andrea Francis. Deidre DeGraffenreid reaffirms, "you don't have to be the greatest singers, we blend and mold.

Annya Haughton added, "I love the choir and I support it greatly. I have one year left. Look out for bigger and greater things for this year and next year."

The Choir had an impressive year, ending it Wed, April 30 in the Student Center Ballroom with *Pressing On* their Fourth Annual Concert. It began with the processional and theme of the evening "Pressing On". After some words by vice president Michael Allwood, the choir proceeded to sing "Nkosi Sikeleli Africa", the South African National Anthem, accapella. They then moved on to "I'll Be Satisfied".

Then next was a treat for the audience. A group of men who call themselves 'Brothers in Christ' sent the crowd into thunderous applause with their rendition of the Winan's "Trust in God". The clapping continued as the Unity Ensemble blended together with the Kirk Franklin classic "Melodies".

After a short intermission, Altoist Maxine Crawford stunted all with her skills on the clarinet while the unsung hero Jonathan Singleton played the piano accompaniment to this piece which he arranged. As Maxine stepped back into the ranks of the choir, they performed "Trust In Jesus" with soloist Dawn Dorsey.

As the crowd settled, females took the lead as a group of sisters called "Voices" sent chills down spines with the powerful "When God Is In The Building". As people stared with awe, the choir continued to bombard them with harmonious rhythm as Sherry Johnson an Marisa Colman showed their skills on "Calling My Name".

Just as Heaven began to materialize before the eyes of many, Leon Jones stepped to the mic and solidified it with "The Lord Is On My Side", written by Leon and composed by Jonathan Singleton, and directed by Michael Allwood.

Just as the night reached the climax and souls floated at their zenith, Aida Hampton, Teresa Brown, and Hillary Gabbidon brought us back to earth with "Till We Meet Again".

The message was permeated tattooed in the minds of all present. The John D. O'Bryant African American Institute Unity Ensemble Gospel Choir invites all to join, and to look for them next year. All are waiting, "Till we meet again". PEACE

LAST WORDS**The Revolution Will Not Be Televised**

DeeJay Mills

The Revolution Will Not Be Televised. The Revolution Will Not Be Televised. Has the revolution died? Are we satisfied with what little we have. What do we have? Everything we have, we owe to our elders. In the 60's and 70's they fought. They saw problems and had dreams. They fought like dogs for what we have. The revolution was not televised. So what happened? I'll tell you what happened. The revolution was televised. It was put on display for all America to see. The media put such a slant that we ourselves don't even know what happened. While behind the scenes Hoover did away with our power through his COINTELPRO. How many of you know about COINTELPRO, the counter

intelligence operations program used to destroy the revolution? The reason you don't know is because of the media. They don't report our side of the story. We have to tell it. This time, the revolution will not be televised. The anti-revolution will. It will be televised, broadcast via radio, TV, Newsprint, and through word of mouth.

I approached Dean Motely and asked him about activism. He answered me with an important question, "How many people have you trained to be on the radio?" I sat back and thought about it. I didn't understand. How many people did I teach to use the radio? Or how many people did I teach or encourage to talk on my show? I didn't realize that

it wasn't a question to be answered. After lots of thought, I realized what he meant. It was on of the biggest wake up calls I've ever had.

I am in a position of power and influence. I am a dj on the radio, I am the Co-Editor of the Onyx Informer. I have a voice and I make it known. People listen to me. I am a leader. What Dean Motely was asking me, was how many people did I train to be leaders? How many people did I train to write our side of the story? How many people did I train to use the radio as a tool for progress and report the anti-revolution? How many people did I encourage to speak out? With how many people did I share my power through my influence?

The Revolution is alive. It's not the same revolution that it was in the 60's and the 70's. This is a quiet revolution. It's a behind the scenes revolution. This revolution is not televised. But this revolution needs you. It is you. You just need to find it. You need to find it within yourself and realize it. I thank you Dean Motely for helping me realize this. I tell you all now. This is a quiet revolution to those who don't understand it, but it is far from quiet for those of us who do. This time the Revolution Will Not Be Televised, some come on. "Get involved 'cause the brothas in the streets are willing to work it out." PEACE - Positive Energy Always Creates Elevation

Racism cont. from pg. 1

and obstacles to attend to. So sets back another generation. Thus there is a growing need for minority advancement programs. We can't rely on the government to help us out, they help as much as their minimum quota demands. As a result, we need to help ourselves. We need to reform together and stop this cycle of poverty and educational oppression. I refuse to believe that we accept living under such conditions.

We didn't start this oppressive cycle, but we must end it in order to take our right-

ful positions in society. Our oppressive past has hindered the performance of past generations and now the thought of taking away the programs that bring hope of advancement for future generations simply appalls me. White America still seems to believe that we all started at the same time in the race for progress. They fail to realize that we still need to make up for our forced absence. They don't need a white college fund. We need the Negro College Fund and other programs to help advance our people.

JOIN THE ONYX INFORMER NEXT YEAR FOR THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY NOVEMBER 3, 1997